



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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CAMPAIGN '98: UPDATE ON TREASURER'S RACE BETWEEN CURT PRINGLE AND PHIL ANGELIDES.

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of summer-time updates about the down-ballot Statewide races. This week **Calpeek** will focus on the State Treasurer's contest between Assemblyman Curt Pringle(R) and Sacto businessman Phil Angelides(D)...

...The big primary surprise, which shouldn't have been a surprise at all, was the **903,000** votes of Albert Robles (D), South Gate's city treasurer. In 1990, when Compton City Treasurer Wes Sanders(D) ran against the much better funded and well-known Kathleen Brown, he got **778,330** or 34.6% of the Democratic vote. In a down-ballot race, where the news media almost totally ignores the candidates and voters are left to fend for themselves, **ballot title** plays a critical role. And city treasurer is a damned good ballot title. So all the spin from Pringle's team, as well as from some in the news media, that Angelides is *doomed* come Nov. 3rd, is very premature. And least anyone forget, Pringle has a few problems of his own...

...In the primary, Angelides finished second to Pringle, who got 1.4 million vs. 1.2 million for the former CDP chair. In addition to the strong showing of Robles, the other thing which surprised some insiders was the very *poor showing* of GOP Assemblyman Jan Goldsmith, who in the final two weeks actually led Pringle in the *L.A. Times* poll. The Goldsmith spin was that conservatives would **not** support Pringle because of Pringle's refusal to back hardliner Tom Bordonaro in the 22nd CD primary. However, conservatives must have forgiven Pringle at the last minute because he captured **62%** of the GOP vote. The Pringle vs. Goldsmith battle was very bitter, so we'll see if they "make up."...

...Pringle must start from ground zero in fundraising,

because he bought onto all the major GOP slates and had an extensive tv buy as well. Angelides still had about \$750,000 in his warchest after June 2nd and was careful in his primary spending. He was on all the key Demo slates and might have spent more on tv had he known that Robles would finish with 37% of the Demo vote. Combined spending in the November election by Pringle & Angelides could hit \$4-5 million...

...In terms of issues, Angelides has taken some stands about programs he'd support if elected. While **Calpeek** doesn't have space to outline his two major proposals, the Smart School Health Plan and his Investing in Calif. Plan, both have merit...

...FYI: **Calpeek** sources expect at least one debate, sometime in October in San Diego, sponsored by the publication *The Bond Buyer*. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: S.F. BOARD OF SUPES ELECTION IN THE FALL COULD BE A TEST OF BROWN VS. REILLY.

Editor's note: Five members of the S.F. Bd. of Supes face voters this fall. Three of the 5 are relatively new, having recently been named to the Board by Mayor Willie Brown. Looming in the background of this election is former campaign consultant Clinton Reilly, who has been toying with the idea of running against Brown next year. Here's our first update & analysis...

...The supervisor who gets the most votes Nov. 3rd becomes Chair of the Board --- and here the betting centers on two veterans: Supes. Tom Ammiano and Mabel Teng. Ammiano is a *deeply* committed liberal, who is gay. Teng is to the left of center, but more mainstream. And because Ammiano is viewed as being the *most independent* of all 11 supes, some regard him as being very anti-Brown. He also was the author of controversial Measure G in '97 --- a full disclosure law for campaign consultants. Recently, Teng's consultant,

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John Whitehurst, as well as a number of other consultants, *refused* to sign the Code of Conduct portion of the law, saying it violated the 1st Amendment...

...The other supervisor who may have a shot at the top spot is new Sup. Gavin Newsom, who has *deep pockets* and is regarded in some quarters as a *rising star* in S.F. political circles. Some think this assessment is "self-generated." Newsom, along with one other supe, supported "G" and sources say this may be one reason why he's having trouble finding a campaign consultant...

...Sup. Amos Brown, who is Black, is considered the most vulnerable of the new supes, while the line on new Sup. Mark Leno is still unknown. Brown appointed Leno, a gay, in April, so he is really unknown to voters. He's hired Staton/Hughes to help guide his campaign...

...In terms of challengers, a few names have surfaced as possibles. Here are the one's we've heard of: attorney Victor Marquez, a gay/Latino activist who has run before; moderate businesswoman Donna Casey; and perhaps S.F. Neighborhood Assn. leader Rose Tsai. Here is where Reilly comes in. Sources say he may team up with Sen. Quentin Kopp(I) to back a separate slate of candidates who are essentially anti-Willie Brown...

...FYI: Also looming on the back burner as a *key campaign issue* is the S.F. 49er Football Stadium deal. Sources say it's a hot issue because opponents of the deal recently hit the streets to qualify a new initiative to overturn the previously approved ballot measure. And the 49ers went to court to block the qualification effort. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: COUNTY DISTRICT ATTY. CONTESTS.
Editor's note: 56 of the State's 58 counties held elections for district attorney on June 2nd. Eight incumbent DAs retired and 13 had contested primaries. Here's a brief summary of what happened...

◆ ***Incumbents Who Won*** - Among those DAs who faced a challenge and won were: Grover Trask of Riverside Co.; Brad Fenocchio of Placer Co.; George Kennedy of Santa Clara Co.; Phil McDowell of Inyo Co.; Gary Yancey of Contra Costa Co.; Ed Hunt of Fresno Co.; and Michael Ferguson of Nevada Co...

◆ ***Incumbents Who Were Defeated*** - There were

4 incumbent DAs who did not survive the primary. Greg Strickland of Kings Co. was defeated by Ronald Calhoun; Hugh Comisky Jr. of Modoc Co. was beaten by Tom Buckwalter; M. Sue Jackson of Sierra Co. was defeated by Sharon O'Sullivan; and Jeffrey Thompson of Tehama was crushed by Greg Cohen...

◆ ***Incumbents In Runoffs*** - Incumbent Susan Massini is in a runoff with Norman Vroman in Mendocino Co. and incumbent Christine Johnson faces Robert Brown in Mariposa Co. Massini got 44% and Johnson got 48%. There are 2 OPEN seat runoffs: Napa Co. and Amador Co.

◆ ***New DAs*** - Judge Anthony Rackauckas of Orange Co.; Paula Kamena of Marin Co.; Gary Luck of Lake Co.; Robert Burns of Lassen Co.; Gerald Shea of SLO Co.; and Patrick McGrath of Yuba Co. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: UPDATE ON U.S. HOUSE CONTESTS.

Editor's note: Here is Part II of our post-primary update on U.S. House races in November. This week **Calpeek** looks at 5 seats now held by 1st term incumbents. We'll cover Demo Loretta Sanchez's 46th CD battle with Bob Dornan(R) in a separate story. Here's our analysis...

☒ ***44th CD*** - Of all the freshmen House members from Calif., Mary Bono(R-Palm Springs) is the only one who is an absolute slam dunk for reelection. She got 57% in the primary and Demo Ralph Waite isn't really much of a match, despite his celebrity status. In addition, there's still the *widow factor* --- plus the numbers in the 44th are just overwhelmingly GOP...

☒ ***22nd CD*** - U.S. Rep. Lois Capps(D-Santa Barbara) got 51.5% in the primary and Demo strategists are fairly confident she'll hold this seat against conservative Assemblyman Tom Bordonaro in the fall. But she will have to work hard and not take Bordo lightly. That would be a big mistake. He got 41.4% against light GOP opposition. Her new incumbency and the *widow factor* again plays well for Capps. Bill Carrick is Capps' lead consultant...

☒ ***10th CD*** - While this CD represented by Ellen Tauscher(D) has a 42% GOP vs. 41% Demo registration, insiders are confident that Tauscher will hold this seat against Charles Bell, a national security analyst.

Tauscher got **54.7%** in the primary and that's a sign that voters in this Contra Costa Co. CD like this freshman Democrat. But there's little doubt GOP strategists at the NRCC will poll here on a regular basis --- just to keep an eye on Tauscher, who has very *deep pockets*. S.F.-based Staton/Hughes is Tauscher's consultant...

☒ **24th CD** - This is another one of those CDs that the GOP thinks should be in their column, but isn't and probably won't be at the end of this election cycle. Incumbent freshman Brad Sherman(D) is voting his district (he follows moderate Jane Harman on some key votes) and in the primary racked up **54.1%**. His GOP opponent, *deep pocketed* businessman Randy Hoffman, spent about \$300,000 and barely managed to break 50% of the combined GOP vote. The Sherman camp views Hoffman as a *dilettante* who never before showed much interest in public service. Registration is **45%** Demo vs. **38%** GOP - meaning it's a swing district, but over the past 8 years has consistently voted Demo. SG&A Campaigns will again handle Sherman's effort...

☒ **27th CD** - Freshman James Rogan(R-Glendale) was viewed as safe until very recently. May '98 registration and new polling data gives the Demos some hope that perhaps former SAG President Barry Gordon might have a shot. The numbers show Demos at **45%** vs. **39%** for the GOP. In '92, the GOP enjoyed a **46%** vs. **42%** edge over the Demos. In addition, a survey by The Feldman Group for Gordon put Rogan's reelect number at **30%**, which is very low. There's no doubt the demographics have been changing in this CD and Rogan is much more conservative than the CD he represents. But the big question for Gordon is money. In '96 when he ran, his fundraising skills were terrible. Bottomline: '98 is a year when voters are sticking with incumbents. The 27th CD still leans GOP, but it is on our *watch list*. SG&A Campaigns will handle Gordon's campaign. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: CALIFORNIA INITIATIVE UPDATE.

Editor's note: Here's a brief update on some new developments regarding initiatives...

◆ **Utility Initiative** - Although an initiative to undo Calif.'s landmark utility deregulation law hasn't qualified as yet, the opposition continues to build its campaign team. As noted last week, the NO side will be co-directed by Winner/Wagner & Mandabach (lead on

paid media) and Townsend, Raimundo, Besler & Usher (lead on daily mgt.). New opposition team members include Gwyn Bicker of Burson-Marsteller in Sacto (lead) and Nelson Communications Group - handling news media relations & coalition building; Fairbank, Mauslin, Maullin & Assoc. and Jim Moore - doing polling; and Nielsen Merksamer handling legal. FYI: according to the NO side, based upon ballot title & summary, in two separate surveys the YES side never gets to 50% and in fact is stuck in the mid-40% range. These surveys were completed in the last 2 months and both polls had similar findings...

◆ **Paycheck Protection II** - Even though they just got pounded by organized labor, the YES on 226 committee is staying in business. No real surprise. According to a news release from the 3 co-sponsors (Mark Bucher, Frank Ury & Jim Righeimer - all from Orange Co.), "We're going to do it again," meaning another go round in 2000. YES on 226 ☎(714)573-2201. FYI: backers of a Paycheck Protection initiative in Nevada *didn't* turn in petitions for a fall ballot proposition. Also failing to qualify in Nevada were a MD/marijuana proposal and a term limit measure...

◆ **Reducing Salaries** - The SOS's office has given the green light to Richard Gann of Paul Gann's Citizens Cmt. to begin collecting signatures on a constitutional amendment to reduce the salaries and benefits of all Statewide constitutional officers and the State Legislature. Gann calls his amendment "The Politician's Compensation Reform Act." He has until Oct. 15th to collect 693,230 signatures. ☎(916)366-3500...

◆ **Marriage Protection Act** - State Sen. Pete Knight (R-Palmdale) is currently circulating an initiative statute whose official title is Definition of Marriage. This measure would add a provision to the Family Code saying that only a marriage between a man and woman is valid or recognized in Calif. Knight has until Sept. 21st to collect 433,269 valid signatures...

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CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

June 25	Last day for citizen-sponsored initiatives to qualify for the Nov. 3rd ballot.
June 26-27	<i>Campaigns & Elections Magazine</i> political training seminar, Bonaventure Hotel, L.A.
June 26-28	Nat'l Women's Political Caucus of Calif., 1998 convention, Hotel Inter-Continental, L.A.
July 20-23	Nat'l Conf. of State Legislatures, annual meeting, Las Vegas.
July 23-25	RNC Summer meeting, New York City.
Sept. 10-13	CA Judges' Assn. annual meeting, S.F.

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

■ ***L.A. Co. Sheriff's Update*** - Calpeek sources report there will be some major campaign team shifts for both incumbent Sheriff Sherman Block and challenger Lee Baca. In addition, there is a rumor that former LAPD Dep. Chief Mark Kroeker will soon return from Europe to assume a key post in the sheriff's department. If this is true, it would be a big boost for Block, who has had a very close friendship with Kroeker for years...

■ ***20th SD Update*** - L.A. Councilman Richard Alarcon(D) won the 20th SD primary by 31 votes over former Demo Assembly Leader Richard Katz --- after the last batch of ballots were counted. Katz has until June 30th to decide if he wants to go for a recount, which costs about \$40,000. L.A. Co. election officials say the recount won't change a thing. Although it is rare, there have been some cases of a dramatic turnaround after a recount. State Sen. Pat Johnston(D) is one example...

■ ***Governor's Race Update*** - The big news out of DC on June 17th was that U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein(D) has endorsed Lt. Gov. Gray Davis(D) for governor. Relations between the two have been very cool for years, ever since the '92 campaign when Davis ran that very nasty ad comparing DiFi to Leona Helmsley. In the primary, DiFi backed U.S. Rep. Jane Harman. Harman is now aboard the Davis effort and is helping him raise money for the fall. With late absentee ballots still being counted, as of 6/16, Lt. Gov. Gray Davis(D) was leading AG Dan Lungren(R) by a margin of 73,000 raw votes --- or 34.9% to 33.6%. On June 3rd, the day after the election, Davis held a 61,000 lead...

■ ***Sybert Fined*** - Remember Rich Sybert, the 3-time loser who tore down Tony Strickland's signs during the 37th Assembly District primary --- and was videotaped? Not only did voters reject this loser, but Thousand Oaks Dep. City Atty. Tim Giles has filed a \$2,000 fine against Sybert. Sybert's attorney says the punishment is "excessive." Oh really...

■ ***Hernandez Won't Run Again*** - Embattled L.A. Councilman Mike Hernandez has announced that when his current term expires in 2001, he will not seek re-election...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook. We've got a ton of these notes in our file...

● U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein's savvy press secretary, Susan Kennedy, returns to CA to run the CDP's Demo Coordinated Campaign for the fall election. The Kamber Group/L.A.'s Howard Gantman is now in DC as DiFi's new press secretary...

● Robin Kramer will depart as L.A. Mayor Riordan's COS and political newcomer Lesa Slaughter will take her place...

● Former campaign spin doctor Julie Buckner has been hired as an acct. supervisor by the L.A. office of Fleishman Hillard...

● Scott Sadler, who is COS to State Sen. Bruce McPherson(R), also has taken on the job as director of the GOP Senate Caucus, reporting to Sen. Jim Brulte...

● Don Ringe has moved his Ringe Media shop to S.F. New address is 1770 Green St., S.F. 94123. New ☎ (415)921-5533. E-mail: DRinge@aol.com...

● L.A. based Cerrell Associates, Inc. has hired Annalisa Robles as an AE; Shannon Johnson as an asst. AE; and Rebecca Berk as an acct. coordinator...

● Change of address for L.J. Fay and her Alpha Mgt. Group: 2814 Camino Dos Rios, Ste. 405, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320. Same ☎ (805)375-6096...